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Title: Need to undertake modernization and expansion of Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur, West Bengal -laid.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) at Durgapur is an asset for the Nation as well as for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). This Plant which was supposed to be the best plant in India in 1960s and earmarked to produce 1 lac ton steel per year with optimum capacity of 3 lac tons for developing various grades of special steels & stainless steel to meet the requirements of Rail, Atomic Research Centre, Petro chemicals, Defence sector, Power sector and Automobile sector. ASP was set up with a view to stop the import of special steels from abroad and to save foreign exchange. In early 70s ASP's collectives started the movement for its expansion & modernization for installation of a seamless tube plant at ASP. SAIL board accepted the demand but due to some unknown reasons that seamless tube plant was installed at BHEL's Trichi Unit in Tamil Nadu. Later on the demand for expansion in Sheet Mill was also sanctioned. But it could not materialize as one new Sheet Rolling Plant was installed at Salem as a result of which both the ASP & Salem Steel Plant (SSP) have become non-viable. While Salem requires an integrated steel plant, ASP requires a finished mill but it has not been done. Now, a good decision has been taken to invest Rs. 1500 crore for Salem Steel Plant's backward integration but there is no decision for forward integration of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur. So, all the Trade Unions unitedly started campaign against the decision of the management's attempt to close down the production. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to fulfill the demand for full modernization and expansion of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur with finishing units like modern bar mill with wire rod mill, updated forge shop with higher capacity, full-fledged sheet mill, stackle mill, seamless tube plant and direct transfer of liquid steel from Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP). In this way, the plant can be revived by optimum utilization of existing resources through synergy among SAIL-DSP-ASP-SSP.